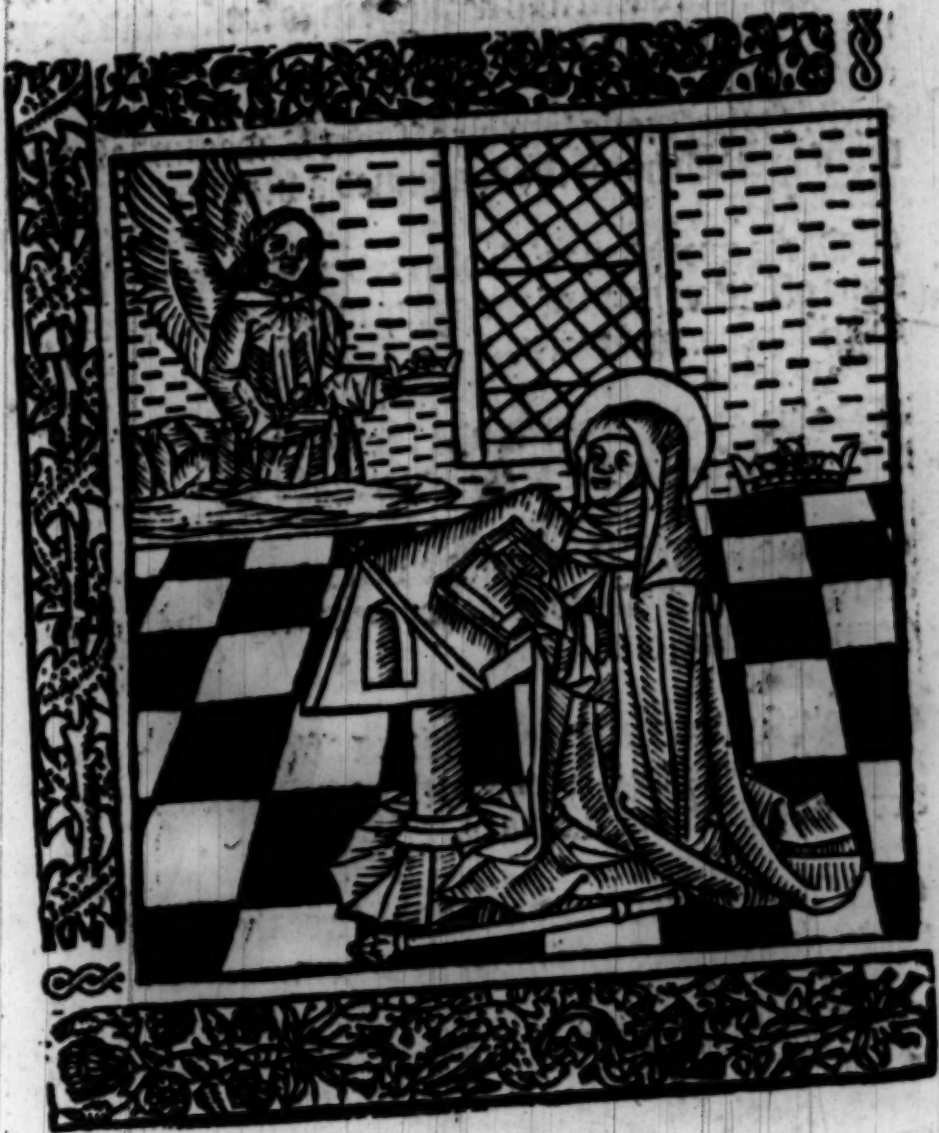


There begynneth the lyfe of  
saynt Radegunde.



The table.

**T**he prologue of the trāslatour of the lyfe of mayde  
Kadegunde

**O**f the progeny of saynt Kadegunde and howe she  
was taken in batell and brought in to fraunce and they  
marryed to kyng Lothary.

**O**f the bertuous luyng of saynt Kadegunde vnder  
spousage / and howe she contynued a virgin.

**O**f the great deuocion of mayden Kadegund in the  
tyme of lenton / and of the great mercy & pitie she bled  
to all captiue prisoners.

**H**owe quene Kadegunde shewed a myracle deli-  
ueryng prisoners out of captiuite.

**H**owe blessed Kadegunde desired to be religious  
and of a myracle shewed at her departure by the way  
goying to religion.

**H**ow she was made religious & after electe abbasse  
and how by grace she was preserued from daunger of  
her busbande kyng Lothary.

**O**f the feruent deuocyon and the great penaunce and  
charitable werkes this moniall bled in religion.

**O**f the great perfection and strapte penaunce this  
abbasse Kadegunde bled in tyme of lenton.

**O**f the great affliction and hard punysment lady



2

**K**adegund' bled aboue the course of nature in the sayd  
tyme of lenton and of her gostly conuersacion to euery  
creature.

**H**ow this holy abbasse resourmed her syster negli-  
gent with a lytell exhortacion folowynge.

**H**owe blessed Kadegunde deliuered a woman pos-  
sessed with a fende from daunger and payne to helth  
and prosperite.

**H**ow a ratte was slayne without hand approchyng  
to hurt the vertuous labour of saynt Kadegunde.

**H**owe saynt Kadegund by prayer reuiued a laurell  
tre to burge & byng fourth leaues without rote.

**H**owe saynt Kadegunde by humble supplicacion  
restored a yong sonne from deth to lyfe agayne.

**H**ow saynt Kadegund saued her seruaunt from pe-  
rell of perillhynge / whiche brought a parte of the holy  
crosse from the emperour.

**O**f dyuerse myzacles in generall / and howe this  
abbasse saued diuerse sicke psons fro Jeopardy of deth

**H**owe Kadegunde thabbasse cured two sicketwome  
from infirmitie / vnto helth and prosperite.

a.ii.

**H**ow this abbasse healed byuerse sicketwomen come  
from feuers / and com from beracion of our goshly  
enemy.

**O**f the goshly visyon she had afore her infirmite & of  
the noble exhortacio she made to her systers in her sic-  
kenesse and payne.

**W**ith what pacience and deuocion lady Radegund  
receyued the blessed sacrament and extreme vnction a-  
fore her departure.

**O**f the departynge of this holy abbasse / & howe she  
appered the same houre to a noble prefect / curyng hym  
from sickenesse of his throte.

**H**owe she cured one of her company from punyshe-  
ment offier / and howe she saued & healed many other  
by true oblacion made to her with deuocion.

**A**n orison made of the blessed Radegunde lady and  
abbasse.

**A** breue conclusion and end of this pooze translatio  
mouyng the reders to accept it symple though it be.

**finis.**

**T**he prologe of the translatour in the  
lyfe of mayden Radegunde/ quene  
and princeffe.

**W**hen the feruent heate/ of the somer seasō  
Was almost endyd by course of nature  
And Phebus entred þe signe of Scorpiō  
Passyng þe equinoctial thā ye may be sure  
The day decreesed/ þe nyght byd lōg edure  
Colde frosty mozynnges/ and euentydes withall  
Began to appzoche/ a long space continuall.

That season lyueries ben bled of duety  
Ryght at the solempne feast of all Halomas  
By the gentylnesse of England/ and curtesy  
To gladde they? guestes/ in euery lordes place  
And to they? company to be great solace  
To passe the euentide/ after good humanite  
In myrthes/ in disportes/ and liberalite

Than I reuolued with due circumstance  
The gentyll maners/ and discrete behauour  
Of seculer people vsyng temperaunce  
How they dispend the tyme/ the day/ the houre  
Some in great policy for wordly honoure  
Some in marchaundise for lucre and wynnynge  
And some in chivalry/ great fame opteynyng

Some other gyven to wanton company  
To wordly pleasours/ and singuler affectyon  
Some to distemperaunce and vile glotony  
And some to Christes/ labour/ and occupation

S. Radegund.

a.iii.



yet some be disposed to contemplacion  
To prayer to study / of theyr goodnesse  
And some ( the moze pitie ) to slouth / and ydelnesse

Nowe syth that I am lowest of degre  
A man of holy churche by true profession  
Consydering the condicions of people worldly  
( As afoze is sayd ) in fully entencion  
By diuine grace and gostly supportacion  
Is for to write the lyfe historiall  
Of Radegunde the pryncesse quene and moniall

After my reason me thynke moze conuenient  
To spende wynter nyghtes in suche besynesse  
For drede of temptation and causes insolent  
Rather than to lose suche tyme in ydelnesse  
Whiche to all byce / is rote and maistresse  
Enuy to vertue / a stepmother to study  
Occasyon of ruyne / and mycle malady.

A secondaty cause / mouyng me therto  
To write the lyfe of this virgin glorious  
Was the instant desyre / and peticyon also  
Of speciall frendes / honest and vertuouse  
Whiche lately requyred me full memorious  
With singuler request / and humble instaunce  
This lyfe to discrybe / with due circumstance

To whome I graunted / vnder this condicyon  
That of their wysedom / they wolde excuse me  
And take this pooze dede / of no presumption  
Nor done for vauntage / auoyding bayngloze

4  
But alonly to content theyr mynde and satisfie  
Where they knowe well my insufficiencyce  
My great ignoraunce/and also negligence

The thyrde cause mouyng moſte princypally  
Is for to extolle/the glorious name  
Of this holy virgyn/and gracious lady  
With honour/reuerence/and excellent fame  
To the comen people/deſirynge the ſame  
Whole lyfe hath ben kept ſcilent many a day  
Knownen to fewe perſons within this countray

Therefore I require/and pray you everychone  
That this litell treatyſe ſhall reed or ſe  
To accept my mynde with your diſcrecion  
And it to correct after your charite  
Amende the mater/where is neceſſite  
For ſyth it is knownen/that I am no clarke  
Under proteſtacion/I procede to warke

And where I vnworthy/this treatyſe begyn  
I humble beſeke our bleſſed ſauour  
His mother alſo mary the virgyn  
To be my helpe/comfort/and ſuccoure  
Nowe ſwete Radegunde/of virgins the floure  
Make ſupplicacion/vnto the trinite  
And direct my penne to deſcribe thy ſtozi

Of the progeny of ſaynt Radegunde and howe ſhe  
was taken in batell and maryed to Lothary  
a kynge of fraunce.

S. Radegund.

a.iiii.

**T**he yere of our sauyour by full computacion  
fpye hundredeth fully from the natiuite  
As dyuers auctours makyn discripcion  
Reyned in fraunce in honour and ryalte  
Two noble kynges / Childebert / and Lothary  
Euery kyng knowing his parte and regyon  
To them belonging / by ryght and custome

At the same season / as sayth the histozy  
A noble pryncce / reyned in Affrica  
Named in cronicles kyng Berengary  
Borne at a citie named Thorynga  
Within the sayd kyndome now called Barbarea  
Whiche pryncce Whylom famous in renowne  
Tyll that dame fortune vnfrendly put hym downe.

Whiche forsayd pryncce kyng Berengarius  
Had in succession a noble pryncesse  
A deuout lady / and a birgyn glorious  
Nominat Radegunde / a gemme of holynesse  
A floure of vertu / and a myxtour of mekenesse  
Whose gostly gouernaunce endurynge her lyfe  
Unto all people may be a perspectyfe

This kyng Berengary by mylfortune in batell  
Was piteously subdued / by kynges of fraunce  
His realme conquerd / piteously to tell  
Losing his honour / lande / and gouernaunce  
And Radegunde taken / suche was her chaunce  
By power remoued / fcom her land naturall  
Amonge strangers to be continuall



Whan the kyng and the realme subdued were  
And mayde Radegunde taken for a pray  
Than the kynges of fraunce for her in fere  
Entended batell / whiche shulde haue the may  
For she was beauteous and pleasant berray  
Humble / gentyll / courtesie / and inoste fayre trulpy  
yet she by lot fell / vnto kyng Lothary

For if Radegunde had nat delpyerd be  
Great cruelte / besynesse / and veracion  
Had fortunied among kynges thre  
Through great dysdeyn / pryde / and ambicyon  
For the realme of fraunce in a triniall kyndome  
Than was deuided cronicles do expresse  
As the sequence of saynt Martyn doth reherse

This lady Radegunde / thus taken away  
And by chaunce delpyered to kyng Lothary  
Was brought with worship in to a countray  
Callyd Neromandensis vnto the kynges citie  
Nominat Atheras / to be kept in suertie  
There to be nourished / and haue refeccion  
Doctryne and disciplyne / with hie discrecyon

¶ Kyng Lothary considering her gentilnesse  
Her vertue / pacience / and proued wysdome  
Her great humilite / constaunce / and sobernesse  
Dayly encreasynge with augmentacion  
Entended to marry spedely and soone  
Lady Radegunde / and virgyn serene  
To make her his spoues and louely quene

Unto this marriage and feast there was  
Made great preparacion/and rialtie  
The halles were hanged/with clothes of arras  
Rychely embrodered/in ryall Imagery  
The .xii. apostelles well set in degre  
Martyrs/confessours/and birgyns withall  
were they? puttered/with crowne victoriall

Ouer the syde tables curiously were wrought  
Auncient histories of auctorite  
Of patriarkes/and prophetes wisely out sought  
Of the olde and newe testament set properly  
Histories were paynted of poetrie  
Chambers were strawed with floures fragrant  
well deckt with hangynges/fresche/fayre/and beryant

This pryncesse was clad in clothes of golde  
In sylkesse/beluettes/and tyssues fyne  
A coronall was ordeyned richely to be holde  
And crowned therewith/as christall dyd shyne  
Set with ryall stones/the sapher celestyne  
The diamont/the diadeke/the ruby/the topas  
The carbuncle/the emerall/the perle they? was

Lordes of the lande were reby present  
Dukes/erles/barons/and knyghtes doughty  
The comons assembled euer delygent  
To gyue attendaunce as was they? duety  
The day was apoynted/of the matrimony  
The chapell enownd with mycle rycheesse  
The clergie attending at an houre expresse

**K**yng Lothary passed from his ryall palace  
 With many myghty peres and lordes of his lande  
 Radegunde hym folowed a pryncesse full of grace  
 With ladies many one the fearest coude befounde  
 They came to the chapell as we vnderstande  
 All thyng was prepared to that solempnite  
 Ornamentes and vestures of great ryaltie

The bysshop was redy / with his ministers all  
 To exerce his office / of the sayd matrimony  
 The obseruauntes was done with honour ryall  
 The masse was songe / with mycle melody  
 With belles / and orgons / and solempne minstrelsy  
 The sacrament of spousage / was celebrat that day  
 With reuerence and woꝛship / in theyꝝ best aray

From thens they departed / to the kynges palace  
 The sayd kyng and quene / the lordes / and clergy  
 All thinges well oꝛdered (as afoze sayd was)  
 To attende in the hall marshalles were redy  
 Of meates and drinkes / theyꝝ was great plentie  
 Venyson Wildfoule mycle aboundaunce  
 The condites of wyne came with great pleasaunce

But foꝛ all this ryaltie / and woꝛldly pleasure  
 Whiche was prepared / at this solempnite  
 The quene Radegunde passyng course of nature  
 Moste dꝛedfull in hert / was foꝛ her virginite  
 Despyed our sauyour of his endless charite  
 Als he foꝛ vs all suffred better passion  
 To pꝛeserue her body from all corruption



**O**f the vertuous lyfing of saynt Radegunde  
vndre spousage/and howe she con-  
tynued a pure birgyne

**W**han the day decayed & come was the nyght  
And all people passyd echone to his lodgyng  
The hert of Radegunde was litell of myght  
yet priuaty she went to her chamber wepyng  
Made great lamentacion dolefully sighing  
Required our lord to helpe of his pytie  
To whome she had offred afore her virginite

Alas what tong can playnly expresse  
Oz hert may thynke / the dreadfull Jeopardy  
This lady Radegunde feared doutlesse  
Whan her lord was laid her swete body by  
Her soule was rapt / her mynde in an extasy  
Blonged in heuenes / wo and penalite  
More leuer to be deed / than lose her chastite

But as scripture sayth / our blessed sauour  
Is euer redy in extreme necessite  
To helpe his seruauntes both day and houre  
Whan they do call / with pure humilite  
He saued saynt Agnes / saynt Lucie / saynt Cecilie  
With many other mo / from all corrupcion  
Ryght so he preserved Radegunde that season

For whan Lotharias desired to supplie  
Naturall pleasure and voluptuous entention  
By diuine power and by myracle sothlie  
His feruent desyre with carnall affeccion

Were clerly extincted for aboue reason  
 Suche frayle concupiscence of loue entye  
 Soone leasid as water quencheth the fyre

Other sondry seasons/whan the sayd kyng  
 Was moued at wyll/to haue his desiderye  
 The quene founde reinedy/at her owne likyng  
 Somtyme feynyng sickenesse/and infirmite  
 Somtyme nat disposed to suche fragilite  
 Somtyme occupied/in labours diligent  
 Other tyme obiectyng/the tyme nat conuenient

Thus by the grace/of her spouse Iesu  
 She euer pserued her true chastite  
 Geuyng her selfe/to prayer and to vertue  
 Lowyng our lord/of his benignite  
 And his mother Mary/floure of virginite  
 Whiche of his mercy/and infinite goodnesse  
 Hath her pserued/in all distresse

And though she was marryed to kyng Lothary  
 A wordly prince/sekyng for honoure  
 She clerly refused/suche pompe and bayne glozp  
 And serued her spouse/our sauoure  
 Transitory pleasures/worship and decoure  
 Were truly abiected/and all suche felicitye  
 More humble in wyll/than parmitted dignite

In wordly vanities/she had no pleasure  
 To gyue good example/was her hole entent  
 Sermons to here/was all her great cure  
 Loue and charite in hert were ay feruent

Her landes and rentes/geuen by assignment  
Were truly tithed/Where was necessarie  
To captiue prisoners/and people in pouerte

All rentes/and richesse/that she myght com to  
Were distribute to monasteris in deuocion  
Besekyng the couent to pray for her also  
And for her lord/and all the region  
Vnto suche places/as she myght nat come  
By personall presence/for distaunce of place  
Thydet she sende almys in short tyme and space

This noble quene had a principall mynde  
Upon the poore people in great penalite  
Shewyng werkes of mercy/acordyng to kynde  
Helpyng all wofull wretchesse in miserie  
Thynkyng all myspend/that they had nat truly  
Beleyng that Christ in euery poore creature  
Lay secret and priue vnder theyr figure

Whan she was richely/serued at her table  
With costly dayntes and delicacy  
With myghty wyndes strong and comfortable  
Conuenient for her estate and regalie  
With suche metes she nolde content her body  
But dyd absteyne/and toke refreccion  
With small portage of her owne decoccion.

To puny she her person/moze strayte & sharply  
Recuiuyng her spryte to meditacion  
She ware the herd here/next to her body  
With precious clothes recloth'd ther vpon



Discrete abstinence/ agaynst rebellion  
Wysely oppressed/ by the helpe of Jesu  
Her corps makynge/ apte to praye and vertue

As Radegunde lay with her prince of right  
She askyd lycence of a comyn custome  
To depart and rise from bed every nyght  
For naturall necessite/ acording to reason  
From whome whan she was departed and gone  
She went to prayer all nyght folowynge  
Platte vpon an heere/ on her knees knelyng

So with continuance/ all the nyght season  
Fervent in soule/ to please god almyghty  
Tyll her vitall sprite by true deuotion  
Were almost confused/ and put in Jeopardy  
Therowte colnesse frost/ and all her body  
From sensuall felyng of her wittes spue  
Clerely were expelled/ by mynde contemplatyue

Wherfore it was sayd of her lorde and kyng  
Of his true subgettes/ and the commons all  
That his noble lady/ by gostly lyueng  
Was nat as quene/ but rather a moniall  
The kyng her blamed in termys curiall  
Reprouyng her customes/ with great confusion  
Whom she humble suffred without contradiccion.

Of the great deuotion she vled namely in tyme of  
lenton/ and of the great pitie she had to  
all captiue prisoners.

Whan the tyme of lenton approached nere  
To speke of her penaunce / is a strayte thyng  
For at the same tyme / with conscience clere

She send to a religious woman in lpueng  
Nominat Bia / her fully mynde she weng  
To whome this moniall / knowyng her entent  
Send Radegunde an heet sealed full diligent

Whiche heet this lady (as rehersed is)  
With reuerence receyued / and put next her body  
Trustyng in the besture great comfort and blis  
Pleasant to our lord / to her soule remedy  
And yet she wolde were clothes richely  
Upon the sayd heet in the tyme of lenton  
Expellyng fame / and wordly commendacion

Upon solempne dayes / and feestes principall  
The quene was reuest / with clothes of golde  
With tissewes fyne / and beliettes at all  
And whan the comon people / yong and olde  
Prayfed suche garmentes / with fame manyfolde  
She utterly abhorred / suche riall riche clothynge  
Sende them to churches / for preestes in to syng

By fortune if Lothary her lord were absent  
Who wolde than byleue / her singuler deuocion  
Her prayer / abstinence / and hert penitent  
Her great contricion and humble supplicacion  
Euer remembryng our lordes passion  
Submyttyng her selfe as vnto his fete  
Washyng his woundes / with teares salt and wete

9  
She refused glotony / by vertuous temperaunce  
Our sauour Iesu was her hole refection  
Upon bodely feeding / gaue litell attendaunce  
Dayly prouidyng her soules sustentacion  
Great vigilles / penance / and holy orison  
Restreſshed her soule / and the body also  
No penance was tedious for her to do

If any transgressor were Iuged to dye  
Or any man suffred wzong accusacion  
She was so mercyable / and full of pitie  
For them to the kyng / she made intercession  
Knelyng full mekely / desyryng peticyon  
And to his counsell with prayer continuall  
Tyll she had pardon / and grace for them all

All the kynges court / example myght take  
To vse humilite / and great gentylnesse  
At lady Radegunde / and synne to forsake  
For why she was called / of more and of lesse  
Rather a minister / than to be a maiestresse  
Deligent to serue / euery tyme and season  
Poore / as well / as ryche with great deuocion

No other man ne childe / dwellyng in the palace  
Was discontent / at this swete lady  
She had suche wysdone / and singuler grace  
Transcendyng other ladies / of memozy  
Dukes / erles / and barons / and all theyr progeny  
Example may take / at this quene ryall  
To encrease in mekenesse / and vertuous morall

S. Radegund.

b.i.



By her great prudence/ and exortacion  
The kyng was moued/ to grace and pitie  
Merciable to the poze/ in all his region  
Hauyng compassion/ lyberall/ and fre  
To execute Justice prompte with mercie  
A good benefactour/ to places religious  
By the instant mocion/ of his quene vertuous.

**H**owe quene Radegunde shewed a great  
myracle deliuctyng prisoners  
out of captiuite.

**T**his noble quene euery solempne day  
Of custome wolde ryse etly as the lyght  
And go to her chapell/ secretly to pray  
Seruyng our sauour/ with all her hert and myght  
Ensuynng mary Magdalayne in mynde full ryght  
To mattens/ and to masse/ after she wolde gone  
And all day folowynge vse meditation

Thus by contynuaunce/ in grace and goodnesse  
In prayer/ abstinence/ vigils/ and chastite:  
This lady Radegunde/ quene and princesse  
Replete with mekenesse/ vertue and charyte  
Shewed dyuerse myzacles/ within the countre  
The fyrst myracle/ was done in the palace  
(As saythe the history) by deuynes grace

As Radegunde passed the palace by a prilon  
whete many prisoners were fettered in durances  
For her pastyme/ solace/ and consolacion  
With lordes/ knyghtes and other seruauntes

10.  
Whan the prisoners perceyued / beyng in penaunce  
That it was the quene / theyr souerayne lady  
With loude voyce / they began on her to call and cry

O noble pyncesse / O kynges doughter dere  
O lady of grace / and quene imperiall  
Succoure vs thy seruantes whiche lye bounde here  
Extende thy charite / vpon vs wretches all  
Delyuer vs from deth / saue from paynes thall  
Be mercyfull to vs / hartfully we the pray  
And we wyll amende our lyues / after this day

This lady heryng / suche great lamentacion  
Inwardly was moued to mercy and pitie  
Required to knowe / with tender compassyon  
What people cryed on her so piteously  
The seruantes ans wered agayne (verite)  
Sayeng that they were beggers at the gate  
Comon to haue almes of so great estate

Also the Jaylor agayne all conscience  
Rebuked his prisoners vnpyteously  
Causyd them be styll / and kepe scilence  
Manasing them to beate / punishe / and mortyfy:  
Conciled the truethe / from his souerayne lady  
Thus the sayd prisoners / put to moze payne  
Had payne vpon payne / without mercy certayne

But the next nyght folowyn / by myracle ryght  
The fetters / the bondes / of the prisoners all  
Sodenly were broken / and losed in theyr syght  
And they were delyuered from paynes thall

S. Radegund,

b.ii.

They passyng from prison / the gates do wne dyd fall  
They came the sayd nyght / to Radegunde theyr lady  
Thankyng her echone / for her grace and mercy

They knelyd on kne / for gladnesse wepyng  
Sayyng O souerayne lady / and maistresse  
Honour be to the / grace and long lyueng  
Whiche hath deliuered / vs from distresse  
Personally this nyght / or els one in thy lykenesse  
Nowe blessed Iesu / redemptour of vs all  
Rewarde you this dede in the blysse eternall

Howe quene Radegund desyred to be religious / &  
of a myracle shewed / at her departyng  
by the way goyng

W Hiche myracle knowen this blessed lady  
Made instant desyre / and humble supplicacion  
To her husband and lord kyng Lothary  
That she myght haue lycense to go to religyon  
Whose meke request / and singuler petition  
At last was graunted / with difficulte  
Of the sayd kyng / to be at her lyberte

She loued our lord / in hert / worde / and dede  
Of this fre graunt / and good expedicion  
She send to saynt Inedard byshop in good speede  
Desyryng hym for charite / and of his deuocyon  
For to receyue her / in to holy religion  
The palce was apoynted / the tyme secretly  
Of her comyng to Pictauns religious to be



11.  
In the meane whyle Radegund gaue to the pooze  
Moche ryall rycheſſe / and beſtured liberally  
Reſeruyng to her perſon / and her ble no more  
Than ſhe dayly bleſed / for honour neceſſary  
So alone proſeſed / vnto the monaſtery  
From the kynges court / priuely in the nyght  
Unknowen to eche creature / ſaue to þ kyng of myght

Upon the other day / where the kyng perceyued  
The ſodayne departure of his lady ſufferayne  
He bitterly wayled / that he was dyſceued  
Sende dyuerſe meſſengers / with a ſure capitayne  
Fyrſt to enquire / and bringe her agayne  
Suppoſyng to haue her / in ſhort tyme and ſpace  
After ſhe apꝑoched / to the religious place

But the holy goost / confortour of all care  
Defendyd Radegunde / at this extremite  
For as ſhe paſſyd / the ſayze feldeſ all bare  
She ſayd to an huſ bande / beſy in huſ bandy  
People wyll folowe after / for to perſue me  
From whiche company I declyne certayne  
Prayeng the conſyle / my preſens / and it layne

It behoueth the nat / from the trueth to barray  
Say that thou ſe me come this ſame way  
The ſeaſon / day / and tyme / rennyng full haſtely  
Thou dyd ſowe this corne affirmyng it barray  
And thus excuſe me / hertfully I the pray  
She paſſyd this plowman / in to a ſecrete place  
For drede dꝛuly daryng / truſtyng out lordes grace  
b.iii.

Incontinently the corne newly cast in grounde  
Began for to blade and bere in euery place  
To eare and to rype (her enemyes to confounde)  
All redy to be shorne / within an houre space  
The otes began to shede / the husbände besy was  
And made great prouisiō with sickle & sythe that mozne  
To cut downe the otes / in sayyng of the corne

After the sayd virgyn / messangers made great haste  
Shortly to to supple theyr lordes commaundement  
They founde the husbände repyng corne full fast  
Whome they required / to shewe on payne of prisōmēt  
If any sayre lady / or mayde by hym went  
To tell whan / and whyther / and whiche way & she is  
Auoydyng great displeasure / shewyng nat amys

Worshipfull maisters / the husbände than can say  
Suche a sayre lady / we se this way gone  
Remynyng fast and spedely the same selfe day  
That we cast this corne in the erth alone  
Sweryng to them depely for more affirmation  
The courteours / beleued this honest man certayne  
And heuely retourned to the kyng agayne

How Radegund was made relygious / & after elect  
abbasse of Dictauiis / & howe by grace she was pre-  
serued from daunger of her husbände & kyng.

W Han wyght approched / this forsayd sayre lady  
Pruely departyd to the place of Dictauiis &  
Thankyng our lord / and his mother Mary  
Of her expedicion / with micle reuerence

17.  
The abbasse of the place gladed of her presence  
So dyd the couent / and the company all  
Of this noble quene / to be conuentuall

Meekely she made singuler petition  
To be religious vsyng lyfe monasticall  
Thabbasse graunted / and the couent echone  
Receyued her gladly / and made her a moniall  
Where fyrst she layde a syde her purpull and pall  
All riche vestures / of golde / and tissewes fyne  
Her crowne / and coronall / set with stones celestyne

She was reclothd / with religious besture  
The mantell of mekenesse / the baile of blacke colour  
The wmpull of wayling / of humble gesture  
With other many bestures / of vertue that same hour  
Thus for the loue of our sauour  
All wordly pleasures bayne / and transitoze  
She hath refusyd / obedient to be

Whan the yere passed of her probacion  
She truly professyd the essentials thre  
Made a solempne bowe afore the congregacyon  
Obedience to kepe also pure chastite  
Enduryng her lyfe / with wilfull pouerte  
She receyued the ryng / of heuenly spousage  
Was maryed to Iesu enduryng this pylgrymage

And as myne auctour playnly doth expresse  
The venerable Antoninus / in his historie  
This lady Radegund / of her great goodnesse  
Bylded afore tyme the sayd monastery



By the helpe of her husbände kyng Lothary  
Where after she was elect lady and abbasse  
By helpe of saynt Medarde a man of great grace

Whan she was abbasse / she toke to her company  
A number of birgyns in hye perfeccion  
To whome she gaue the example dayly  
Of pure humyltye / and perfyt deuocyon  
Of vertuous lyueng / and contemplacion  
Perfourmyng in her persone / for goostly mede  
All thyng commaunded / to her systers in dede

But the mortall enemy / of all mankynde  
Consideryng in her / suche grace and vertue  
By malyce / and enuy / forcast in his mynde  
By some subtyltye / this mayd to subdue  
He tempted her husbände / a pryncce full of vertue  
By power / and flouth to take his wyfe agayne  
Out of religion / the more pyte certayne

This sayd kyng Lothary / in conscience blynde  
Came with his company / to the citie of Turon  
Under craft / and poleysy pre penyd in mynde  
With the notable pryncce / Sygibert her son  
Dyssemblyng pylgrymage / and goostly entencion  
Approchyng Pectauis / the rather that he myght  
Take from religyon / his wyfe that same nyght

Whan Radegunde / hard tell his subtell polysy  
Howe he was paruerted as man without grace  
She wept and wayled / in soule tenderly  
For sorowe of her husbände / whiche somtyme was

In her hert no confort / was founde nor solace  
For drede of decepte / and ymagined treason  
Praying to our lord / for helpe that same season

13

She made secret letters / and send her entent  
Closed and sealed / unto saynt Germaine  
Bysshop of Paris / whiche than was present  
With kyng Lothary / making her complaynt  
Mofully lamenting / expessed in dede playne  
Desiring the byshop / with humble supplicacion  
To conuert the kyng / from his wrong oppinion

Whan saynt Germaine these letters had reed  
He prostrat hym selfe to the fete of the kyng  
Afore saynt Martyns tombe praying hym in dede  
By the order of charite / many salt teares wepyng  
And for the loue of god / to conferme his asking  
That he no further / wolde procede in way  
Nor come to Pectauis / for drede of deth that day

The kyng consideryng / in soule his great trespase  
With bytternesse of hert / remembryng his petition  
Shulde come of Radegund / by singuler grace  
With contrit hert and mynde / made playne confession  
Excusing his defeaute / by euill suggestion  
Prostrat his person unto saynt Germaines fete  
Desiring indulgence / with salt teares and wete

Reputyng his presence / simple and vnworthy  
For to call agayne his wyfe / from religion  
Whiche is the spouse / of our lord almighty  
And vnder his licence entred proffession

S. Radegunde.

C.I.

Required the byshop spedely to gone  
To lady Radegunde absolued for to be  
Lest punishment fell on hym / soone and hastele

Whiche thyng the byshop was glad for to do  
Came to Pectauis / vnto her oratorie  
And kneled at her fete / desirynge her also  
To forgyue the kyng / his entent and miserie  
Whiche thyng she dyd in hert / and worde gladly  
Thankyng our lord / that she was at lyberte  
To serue hym day & nyght / deliuered from captiuite.

**O**f the feruent deuocyon of saynt Radegunde and  
of the great penaunce and charitable  
workes she bled in religion.

**W**hat hert may thynke or tong is sufficient  
To expresse the vertuous of this moniall  
In deuout orison / in vigils conuenient  
In discret abstinence / in vestures small  
Example gyuing vnto her systers all  
To the comon people / howe they in great vertu  
Shulde dayly encrease / pleasynge our lord Ihesu

This abbasse bled liue / to eate whyte bredde  
But of rye or berly / kept secretly  
That no man perceyued / howe that she fedde  
Her drinke was water or litell better dayly  
From her profession by saynt Hedarde truly  
Her repast was potage / and herbis for to eate  
Nothet fysh / fleshe / egges / scutes / ne mylke meate



14.  
Also after the blage / and rite of saynt Germaine  
She had a litell myne in her secret cell alon  
In whiche all the lenton / she laboured certayne  
As wolde well suffice for.iiii. dayes refectiō  
A maruell howe she dyd satisfy every person  
Where nothing wanted / that was necessary  
The more that was gyuen / euer the more plenty

When obseruautes were done / eche saturday at nyght  
She toke a linnen cloth cloused about her body  
And washed the heedes of all poore folkes aright  
Rubbving all theyr sores / sickeness / and malady  
She ayded and succoured / and dyd them remedy  
After combyd them / or they passed the place  
Nothing abhorring suche mekenes in her was

To all poore creatures / the prouince round about  
She euer ministred / the warkes of pitie  
Gyuing to them clothyng / of almes without dout  
Bothe linnen and wolln / sytting for theyr degre  
When they were greued / with any infirmyte  
She toke theyr bestures / and washed them echone  
With her owne handes / after dyd them vpon

She send for poore folke / in her hall to dyne  
Afore the ryche estates / for all theyr clothyng ryall  
She serued the sayd poore / after Christis doctryne  
First water to theyr handes / with a towell to them all  
To nerfons impotent / she ministred speciall  
Masthyng theyr mouthes / theyr handes louingly  
Suche was her custome / she was so full of pitie

S. Radegunde.

c.ii.

Whan all the seruyce / on the table was set  
She wolde stande fastyng / to make them good chere  
And deuyde theyr bitayls / as she myght get  
Shewyng them good counsell theyr soules to lere  
All blynde / halte / and lame / to her were full dere  
Whome with her handes / she fed with a sponne  
After gaue them drinke / with Christes benesone

Women full of lepre and vile corruption  
In armes she wolde embrace / and kysse swetely  
And gaue to them clothing / and refectioun  
That many of them / were healed thereby  
Wherefore it was sayd / O thou swete lady  
Who shall the kysse / or apwoche the nere  
Which kysse / suche lepers most vile in fere.

Of the great perfeccion / and penaunce that lady  
Radegunde bled in the tyme  
of lent.

**H**is noble Radegunde / a venerable abbasse  
All the tyme of lent after her profession  
Whan she solitary in her cell set was  
She absteyned from breed / a costly refectiō  
Using herbis / potage / made of malous alone  
Without oyle / and salt / except vpon the sonday  
She toke brede alon / a lytell for that day

She absteyned so sore / from drynkynge of water  
The .xl. dayes of lent / with suche great penury  
That she myght nat sing noz say with voyce clere  
The seruice of god / noz orison priuately

15  
She bled the rough heer / next her tender body  
Watchyng all the nyght / byng meditacion  
Her bed was dry ashes / and an heer layed vpon

Her clothyng was so pooze / symple and small  
She had nat a sleue / vpon her armes to do  
But of her holes / she made twayne at all  
To couer her from colde / from frost / and wynters wo  
Thus she dyd punyssh / her prouze body so  
That she assembled a seruaunt for to be  
Rather than an abbasse of great auctorite

Also whan her systers all in bed were layed  
This lady Radegunde / wolde euery nyght  
Wype cleene theyr shoues lyke a pooze mayde  
And with soft oyntment anoynt them full right  
Make all thyng redy / agayne the day light  
Of all vile labours / that among them there was  
She wolde fyrst serue moost subget in the place

Wherfore as her cours / came wekely about  
She sweped all places / of the monastery  
All great vile burthens / she bare them out  
From stretes and corners / fullsom for to se  
Secret purgacions horible to the eye  
She nothyng disdayned nor was dismayde  
On her childers to cary (in stoyr as is sayd)

She humbled her selfe as lest in degre  
Bearing wode to the fyre / in her armes twayne  
Seruyng her systers beynd with infirmyte  
Preparyng sustentacion / meate and drynke certayne

S. Radegunde.

c.iii.



Wasshyng they? synamy / and sedyng them playne  
Sundry tymes kysyng them with great humylte  
Therby recoueryng dyuers from penalite

Unto all people / she shewed good lyberalyte  
Truly fulfyllng her holy professyon  
They? fete and handes / wasshyng at the fyrst entre  
Of straungers to the place / despyng them of pardon  
Where was no offence / but all thyng well don  
Exauple gyueng / of mekenesse and charyte  
Unto all ladys within chrystente.

**O**f the great affliction / & hard punysshment that  
lady Radegunde bled aboue the cours of nature  
in the sayd tyme of lent.

**H**is noble pryncesse mayden Radegunde  
A comly quene / a moniall / an abbasse  
A floure of vertue / a rose moost rubicunde  
Of our lord was elect / & circumfussed with  
To be ruler and lady / of a religyous place (grace  
Whose strayte herd penaunce / fame and holynesse  
We can nat discreybe nor them expresse

This blessyd abbasse / all the tyme of lenton  
Suffred bytter penaunce / & maruelous punysshment  
Usyng certayne bandes of yren in custome  
Fast knyht to her necke / and arnes in chastment  
Also. iiii. yren chenes / a bout her body went  
Full straptely bounde / the holy fast enduryng  
To punyshe more pytiously her flesshe creatyng

That whan fortye dayes of lent were past  
 And the mayde mynded to take them away  
 The sayd bandes and chenes/ remayned so fast  
 Perlyng her body that she ne myght verray  
 Without great violence/ remoue them that day  
 That blode yssued downe fro the necke/ to the fete  
 In dyuerse parties of her body full wet

She caused to be wrought for greater penalty  
 A plate of coppe/ the sygne of the crosse hauyng  
 Whiche layed in the fyre/ in her cell solitary  
 She toke the sayd plate/ as it was hote brennyng  
 And layde to her fleshe/ as a martyr sufferynge  
 Punysshyng her corps to bring it in subiection  
 Obedient to the soule/ by payne and deuotion

This abbasse addyd newe payne vpon payne  
 In punysshyng her person/ more greuously  
 For why all the lent/ sayth the story playne  
 Notwithstandyng her vigils/ and abstinence openly  
 She exercysed newe penaunce/ and paynes secretly  
 The heert set with brystels/ and yet she vled more  
 A chafyngdische of coles/ to be set her afoze

Thus whan she was set/ solitary in her cell  
 Her body quakyng/ and her membres all  
 Dredyng greuous paynes/ maruelous to tell  
 Her soule was armed/ to suffre payne temporall  
 She boyled her body/ with the sayd fyre materall  
 To anymat/ and restrethe the soule in reason  
 To stand as a martyr/ where was no persecucion

S. Radegunde.

c. lili.

Hoote brennyng brasle / she layde to her sydes  
Her tender fleshe tremblyng / y skynne was consumed  
The body was cōbust / with many greuous wondes  
The fleshe from the bones / in sundre part; deuyded  
The blode semydecot to the erthe distylled  
Shewyng the verite / of the passyon certayne  
Wher scilence was kept / for all the greuous payne

Thus a fragill femynyn / for the loue of Ihesu  
Paciently suffred greuous punysshment  
Vsyng contynually / deuocyon and bertue  
Prayer / almyddedes / and charitable feruent  
Thoro we which by grace / there folowed incontinent  
Myracles (for why) all bayne pleasures transitory  
Kadegunde refused / myndyng moost our messy.

How this holy abbasse vsyng meditacyon refour-  
med her syster neglygent / with a lytell  
exortacion folowyng.

**T**his lady neuer spake / agayne good conscience  
She neuer defamed / nor bled detraccion  
Agayne verite / she neuer bare euidence  
She neuer dissymuled / nor bled adulation  
Hastynes / ne yre / debate / nor derysion  
She prayed for her enemyes / to amende by grace  
Mouyng her susters / to the same in the place

Great grauite goodnesse / and humyltye  
True loue to god / in her hert was feruent  
Pacience in aduersyte / faythe / hoope / and charyte



17.  
Iustyce attemperaunce/foztitude werre lent  
With prudence benygne euer resplendent  
Gostely example/with good exortacion  
Had resydence in Radegunde/and holy religion

Her example was better/than a commaundement  
Vnto her subgettes / within the monastery  
Her doctryne was profytable/and expedient  
By her fact and dede/She gaue exemplary  
Vnto her subgettes/and all the samyle  
Her precepte and dede/agreed bothe in one  
As Christ gaue example/for our saluacyon

Also afore mydnyght moost commenly she sayd  
All Dauid psalter/long before mattence  
After whan her systers/in bedde were layed  
She styll continued/prayeng in presence  
Of the blessyd sacramentes/departyd nat thence  
Tyll the day lyght/kneling in deuotion  
With wepyng teares/and meke medytacyon

That vnder lycence/and refozmacyon  
Of all them that this ytell werke shall se  
We purpose to reherse/with deuynne proteccyon  
Parte of her myracles/followyng the story  
Requyryng all reders/of theyr pure charite  
To excuse my ignoraunt boldnesse also  
And accept myne entent synple tho it be  
Quia bona voluntas/reputetur pro facto

This gracious Radegunde/ceasyd day nor nyght  
Princypally to prayse our lord / with supplicacyon

Her mynde hert / & mouth / with all her gostly myght  
Synghulerly was set her spouse Ihesu vpon  
As she was feruent / in her contemplacyon  
A moniall Codegunde by a posterne preuaty  
Passyd without lycence / out of the monasterp

(Whiche thyng knowen) the abbasse folowed shortly  
And wolde haue called her by name Codigunda  
In stede of whiche name / she sayd vernaly  
Come agayne dees syster (alleluya alleluya)  
As the mynde thought / so spake Radegunda  
Ryght so it foruned / after many a season  
Her soule was so feruent / vpon meditation

Sweete worthy princesses / borne of great rualte  
Duchesses / countesses / ladies enerychone  
folowyng yowr appetyte / and sensualite  
In worldly worship / and vayne detraction  
Diuerfite of garments made of theyr netwe facyon  
With delirat dainties repastyng eury day  
The body to conserue / in lust and likyng ay

Beholde and confidre with your interieur eye  
This humble abbasse / lady and moniall  
Howe she refused all worldly dignite  
Rychesse / reuerence / and honour imperiall  
Wayne / bestures / garments / possessyons withall  
Entred religion / with great humilite  
Truly obseuyng / the essencials thre

Also for sufferynge / in this present lyfe  
A lytell whyle payne / for loue of our sauour

19.  
Alsyng praye penaunce/and life contemplatyf  
Nowe she is exalted/in heuenly honour  
Whose glozy shall euer encrease/more and more  
Wherfore noble ladies/example ye may take  
At this holy quene/all vice to forsake

O blessyd Kadekunde O worthy princeesse  
Lady and quene/birgyn/and moniall  
O vertuous abbasse/and sufferayne maistres  
Nowe triumphant/in the see celestiaall  
We pray the mekely/pray for vs all  
That after this lyfe/and mortall passage  
We may come to blis/and eterne heretage.

¶ Nowe blessyd Kadekunde deliuered a woman  
possessyd with a synde/ from daunger and  
payne/ to helth and prosperite.

**A** Certayne woman dwelled by the monastery  
whiche was possessyd/with a spirite infernall  
By long contynuaunce enduryng misery  
Soze bered/and greued/with paynes thrall  
Tearnyng with violence/as a beest brutall  
Man /woman/and childe/with great cruelte  
In a hiduous rage/ alas the more pite

Thus she possessyd suffred mycle payne  
The mynde soze moucd/alienat from reason  
The profet of her soule /forgetyng certayne  
To charitable werkes/had no entencion  
Frew yll was tollyd so was deuocion



She had no power to say nor do truly  
But as the sayd sende put in her memozy

She was strayte bounde / bothe fote and hande  
For drede of myschefe / and wickydnesse  
Her frendes dwellyng within the lande  
Were woful in hert / no meruell doutlesse  
Consideryng theyr kynswoman / in suche distresse  
With wepyng waylyng / they came mekely  
Besekyng mayde Radegunde / for helpe and remedy

O cumly creature / and knynges daughter dere  
O vertuous lady / moniall and abbasse  
We call to the knelyng afoze the here  
Haue pyte and compassyon / in this extreme case  
Be thou our succour / comfort and solace  
Helpe this wofull wreche / humble we the pray  
By thy prayer and myght as thou well may

Unto whose prayer peticyon and desyre  
Saynt Radegunde / was moued to compassyon  
Commaundyng them all / with loue entyre  
To bryng the sayd woman / and wofull person  
Unto her presence / hastily and soone  
Her frendes were glad / and made good chere  
Joyfull to fulfill the commaundement in fere

Whan they approched / to this wofull patient  
Redy to conuey her / to the holy place  
The sayd wickyd spoxyte / moued her entent  
Euer to the contrary / by power and manace  
She rayled / and raged / and spyt in theyr face


19

At the last by power / wysdome and myght  
This woman was brought / before this lady bryght

On whom she had compassion / and pety  
And anone commaunded / in presence of them all  
That wycked spzite / and mortall enemy  
To cease of his greuance / and paynes thall  
And shortly to the grounde / before her to fall  
Also to departe this sayd woman fro  
Neuer more to vex her with payne nor wo

At none the spzite obeyed / the commaundement  
Myght no lenger tary / day nor yet houre  
Immediately departed / from the feble patient  
With an hydeous cry full of great doloure  
The woman rose vp out of her langour  
And kneled downe / thankyng god almyght  
And blessed Radegunde of this myracle ryght.

Howe a ratte was slayne without hande ap-  
chyng to hurt the vertuous labour  
of saynt Radegund.

his abbasse bled somtyme meditacion  
Somtyme praye / bigls / and abstinence  
Whylom in labours / & wordly occupacion  
The tyme to dysped / in vertuous excellēce  
And as my auctour gyueth intellygence  
This lady had wrought / with great besynesse  
A clew of yarne in auoyding ydelnesse

Whiche clew Radegunde hange forth in the son

At her chamber winde to take ayre and dry  
And anone they came a myghty great ratton  
Approching the yarne to gnawe it / and destruy  
But as soone as she touched the clewe certenly  
In the fyrst moxell she fell to grounde deed  
Without mannes hand (in story as is reed)

**T**he saynt Radegunde by prayer reuived a laurell  
tree to burge and bring forth the leaues  
without any rote.

**T**his venerable virgyn commaunded also  
Her seruants to remoue a great laurell tree  
Ferre from the place where it dyd grow  
To set it securly within the monastere  
Ryght afoze her cell / to comfort the company  
Whiche laurell tree / by the rote cut a way  
Was brought / and transplanted into a garden gay

The sayd laurell tree without rote whiche was  
Began soone to fade / to wyder / and to dry  
The leaues fell a dowe of pleasure / and solace  
Nature in it decayed / and no meruell securly  
But whan the virgyn perceyued it truly  
She supposid and imputed all to her person  
Cause of negligence / or want of deuotion

Then Radegunde began mekely for to pray  
That the sayd laurell myght reuived be  
And anone by myracle / the same selfe day  
The tree newly burgened / plcaunt for to se



20  
And brought forth the leaues beynant in suauite  
With fressh he fayre bzaunches / couering the grounde  
The tre had a newe rote / as it was tried and founde.

Howe saynt Radegunde by humble intercession  
restored a yong summe from dethe  
to lyfe agayne.

**A**nother season / whan this holy abbasse  
was in her cell blyng ineditacion  
She herd a great wepyng / & crieng alas  
Among the seruauntes / & congregacion  
The cause was this by playne demonstra  
A vertuous syster / a yong moniall (cyon  
That tyme departed from this lyfe moxtall

Radegunde by rose full spedely  
To comfort the company / with compassyon  
Desirng the seruauntes / to byng the deed body  
Secretly to her cell / and solitary mansion  
After she commaunded them / all and one  
Without any taryng to depart theyr way  
Vnto theyr besynesse / and for the soule to pray

Whan all thyng was redy for the buriall  
In mean tyme Radegund prayed our sauyour  
By space of .viij. houres for this yong moniall  
Vnto the body the spryte for to restore  
Whose prayer endyd the soule that same houre  
Reuerted to the corps / restored to lyfe agayne  
Cured from all skenes / beracion / and payne.

**T**he saynt Radegunde saued her seruantes from  
peryll of perisshyng which brought a parte  
of the holy crosse to Pectauis.

**T**his vertuous abbasse / send to the emperoure  
Of Constantynople for a porcion  
Of the holy crosse / on whome our sauyour  
For vs suffred deth / and payed our raunsom  
The messangers opteyned theyr meke petition  
Receyued a litell part of the crosse certayne  
From thens departyd / to theyr lady agayne

And as they passed / saylyng on the see  
Sodenly rose vp wyndes moste hideous  
The ayre for darkened by craft of our enemy  
Great stormes approched myghty / and metuelous  
The tempest encreasyd / euer more greuous  
The maryners were hely in eche part to attende  
And laboured full fast theyr lyues to amende

The stormes and tempestis / continued truly  
Fortie dayes and fortie nyghtes / withouten ceasyng  
The mariniers were mased mated / and wery  
The ship was euer in peryll of perisshyng  
So whan the messangers knewe no other thyng  
But deth approchyng of theyr lyues desperate  
They called on Radegund / & sayd with mynde eleuate

O louely lady and blessed abbasse  
O holy virgyn / and kynges doughter dere  
O vertuous moniall replete with great grace  
Helpe now the thy seruantes from peryll and dangere

21

Defende vs from deth/which aproucheth nere  
Ceasse these great fees O swete maistres  
Spede vs in our Jorney/thoꝛowe thy goodries

Suffre neuer the enemy of all mankynde  
By malyce and enuy/to drenchen vs all  
Also swete lady/call to thy mynde  
That we haue nowe brought/a relique speciall  
And don well our message/by grace supernall  
Therfoze madame/in this necessite  
Pray foꝛ vs all/to the blessyd trinyte

Ryght shortly apperyd/in all theyꝛ syght  
A whyte doufe flyeng/the chȝe all about  
The tempest ceasyd/by myracle right  
The wyndes were layde/within and without  
The see was quiet/withouten dout  
The marchandes/the maryners/with voyce Jocunde  
Magnyfyed our maker/and mayden Radegunde

The messangers came whome/all in prosperyte  
And brought with them/the relique/of reuerence  
Whiche solemply was set/in the monastery  
With honour/woꝛshyp/and mycle diligence  
And whan it came to open syght and pꝛesence  
Myzacles were shewed/by it euery day  
Unto the people/of the sayd countray.

**O**f dyuerse myzacles in generall/and how this  
abbasse saued dyuerse seke persons from  
Jewardy of deth.

S. Radegunde.

D.i.



What memory or reason is sufficient  
To remembre the myzacles of this lady  
What tong can expresse / or pen is conuenient  
Playnly to describe / all the noble story  
It were a plesaunt werke for the monke of Burc  
For Chaucer or Skelton / fathers of eloquens  
Or for religious Barkeley to shewe theyr diligens

yet vnder licence / speke we in generall  
Part of the myzacles / of this virgyn bright  
Where a sicke man in slepe by monicion speciall  
Receyued of Radegunde a candell lyght  
Soon after by her grace / comfort and myght  
He was well cured from all infyrmitie  
Restored to helth / and to prosperite

Also a nother man feble and impotent  
Endured suche sickenes / and debylite  
That by the space of .x. dayes consequent  
He toke no sustenaunce / meate nor drynke truly  
To whome this mayden (of her great charite)  
Came for to visyt / and the pacient anone  
Cured from sickenes / receyued refection.

How Radegunde thabbasse cured .ii. sycke women  
from sickenesse / and in fyrrite vnto helth  
and prosperyte.

A Noble gentill woman Bella nominat  
Wyfe vnto Sylbard / of the realme of Fraunce  
With sundry sickenesse / and blyndnesse cruciat  
Long tyme enduryng / suche wofull penaunce

12  
Was brought to Radegunde / for helpe of her greuous 22.  
Her frendes wofull penyue in mynde  
Desyred this virgyn / for to helpe the blynde

This abbasse replete / with grace and pittie  
Signed this woman / vnto our sauyour  
With the signe of the crosse / for helpe and remedy  
Makynge intercession / for her that houre  
The sicke was deluered / from payne and langoure  
Cured from blyndnes / had her sight agayne  
She thankyd our lord / and Radegunde certayne

Also a nother woman / was cured from payne  
By merite of this mayde / and singuler supplicacion  
Hauyng a great byle / betwene her shulders twayne  
Of long continuance / full of corruption  
For the wofull woman / she made intercession  
Vnto our sauyour / and kyng of mercy  
To sende her helth / helpe and remedy

And whan the sayd orison ended was  
This swollyn bonche horrible to nature  
Dyd braste a sundre / with the skyn in that place  
A worme yssued out of a great stature  
Whiche was destroyed afore them full sure  
The pacient was healed / from payne in sight  
By grace aboue kynd / and myracle right.

How this abbasse healed dyuerse sicke women com  
from feuers / and some from vexacion  
of our gostly enemy.

S. Radegunde.

D.ii.



Certayne deuout religious moniall  
Was bered all þ day with great colnesse  
And in the nyght tyme/with hete ouer all  
As a feruent feuer/of wo & paynfulnesse  
That she myght nat serue / our lord god  
A nother nyght noz day/for soze beracion (doutlesse  
Whiche was to her soule/a dowble tribulacion

This blessed mayden/replete with grace certayne  
Commaunded warme water/to be had in hye  
Which water she touched/with her handes twayne  
Gaue it to her syster/the payne to moztify  
So whan she touched/the sayd sycke body  
The moniall receiued helth and prosperite  
Cured from all qualites/of suche contrariete

A nother woman long had in possession  
Of a wickyd sprite prostrat/in the pauement  
Was brought to this mayde for preseruacion  
On whome she had pyte/and prayde full delygent  
Our lord to deliuer the spyrte from the patient  
She blessed this woman/and the deuell right sure  
Departyd shortly/by the secretis of nature

A certayne mayden dwelling in fraunce  
A nominat Roda was bered day and nyght  
With the colde feuers/and paynfull greuance  
Whiche mekely was mesured/to this lady bryght  
By whose humble orison all payne ceass'd right  
The feuers were fled/helth approched nere  
Or the candell was endyd/sayth the story clere



A religyous abbasse/manassyd full soze  
 Blessyd Radegunde excommunicat to be  
 Except she wolde heele / and saue from langore  
 A woman possessyd / with a spyrite paynefully  
 By grace so it fortunyd / that within dayes thre  
 Our olde aduersary / departyd her fro  
 The woman was delpyerd / from payne & gossly wo.

Of the gossly visyon she had afore her infyrmyte &  
 of the noble exortacion she made to her  
 systers in her syknes & payne.

**W**e to the glorious passage / of this abbasse  
 Passe we with gladnesse / and felicite  
 Whiche in her tyme / was a floure of grace  
 An example of vertue / and benygnyte  
 A myxtour of mekenes / and pure chastite  
 A bertuous gouernour / of her congregacion  
 To bryng them to glozy / and heuently mansyon

Suche grace she outayned / of our saupour  
 That afore her passage / a hole yere full right  
 Our lord sende his angell / with mycle honour  
 To be her comfort / helpe day and nyght  
 The angell apetyd / to this lady bryght  
 In fourme of a yong man / moost fayre to be tolde  
 Whiche gladdyd her soule / and mynde manyfolde

The angell shewed Radegunde in vision  
 A glorious place / in the celestyall see  
 Prepared for her / to haue frucion  
 Where ioy is infinite / and endles glozy

D.iii.

Reherſyng theſe wordes / with great Iocundite  
O glozious abbaſſe / quene and moniall  
Our lord to the ſendyth / gretynge ſpeciall

Shewyng howe / for thy vertu and mekenelle  
Thy vigils / faſtynges / and deuocion  
Thy weppynge / waylynge / and tenderneſſe  
Thy brytter penaunce / and ſharpe affliction  
Thou ſhalt haue merite / and glozificacion  
And in my diadem thou ſhalt ſure be  
A precious gemme / reſplendent with beaute

Sweete virgin to the I playnly expreſſe  
To Jeſu thy ſpouſe / thou ſhalt come haſtely  
From worldly veracion / payne and beſeneſſe  
To abyde and endure / in ioy perpetually  
Whiche ſingular comfort / and viſyon goſtly  
Secretly ſhe ſhewed / vnto ſiſters twayne  
Virtuous in luyng / ſuche grace to optayne

ſone after this ſayd goſtly reuelacion  
Sickeneſſe approached her and infirmite  
The meſſanger of deth / and worldly ſeperacion  
Dayly increaſyd with wo and penaunte  
Her body was brought to ſuche debylte  
That ſhe ſore dyled her lyfe euer day  
The panges and paſſions doubled alway

As ſhe endured ſuche langore and ſickeneſſe  
She ſend for her ſiſters / and all the couent  
Exortynge them to vertu and goodneſſe  
Principally to kepe our lordes commaundment

With gostly perfection/and be euer pacient  
Use mekenesse in hert/and true charite  
With loue vnto god /from the hert fre

24

She sayd dere sisters/ I pray you everychone  
Dayly to obserue the essentials thre  
Of saynt Benettes rule/your holy religion  
Partyt obedience/and wylfull pouerte  
With the floure of cleanness and pure chastite  
Kepe your doctrines/and customes spirituell  
With gostly obseruauntes /and ceremonies all

Honour and loue our lord above all thyng  
Occupy the tyme in meditacion  
In deuout prayer and discrete fastyng  
In vigils penaunce/and contemplacion  
Call vnto mynde your strayte profession  
Obserue the order ye be professyd vnto  
Remembre this lesson/what, so euer ye do

Also my counsell is/that ye shalbe content  
With the visitacion of god all myghty  
Whether he send you pleasure or punishment  
Quietnes beracion helth or infirmite  
For this ye knowe/ by his auctorite  
The childe whome the father loueth most dere  
He doth most pynfully tenderly in fere.

With what patience and deuocion lady Radegund  
receyued þe blessyd sacrament & extreme unction  
afoze her departure



**A**fterward she askyd the holy communion  
With imple reuerence / and humilite  
To comfort the soule agayne temptacion  
At the charre passage / of this mortalyte  
Where preistes / and clarkes / were all redy  
Theyr offyce to supple right conuenient  
And brought with them / the blessyd sacrament

At whose commyng / this reuerent Radegunde  
With gostly comfort humbled her body  
Sayeng to the sacrament / with hert iocunde  
Welcome my maker / god sonne almighty  
Welcom my redeemer / and kyng of glozy  
Welcom my ioy / comfort and solace  
My trust / my treasure / in euery place

As the church teachith / I beleue stydfastly  
That thou descendyd from blis eternall  
And was incarnat / in mayden Mary  
Suffred passyon / and deth moost thrall  
Man soule to redeime / from payne infernall  
And that thou institute / thy blessyd body  
In furme of bredde to be sacramentally


Thus with great wepyng / and setuent deuotion  
In true fayth / hope / and charite  
Radegunde receyued the holy communion  
To preserue the soule from ieopardy  
With all obseruaunce / and suffrage gostly  
After all this she askyd extreme unction  
For spirituall comfort / and saluacyon

25.  
And as she lay in such extremitie  
Suffering great payne/abiding the houre  
She be toke her soule/bnto the custodie  
Of Ihesu her spouse/our blessyd sauyour  
Also to visyt her/they came with great honoure  
Many sad citsyns wyddowes/virgyns pure  
Lamentyng and wepyng/foz her departure

They held bp theyr handes/towarde heuen on hye  
Piteously cryeng/made great lamentacion  
Sayeng O blessyd lorde/god almyghty  
Why suffers thou this mayde/departe from vs alon  
Fatherleschildeerne without consolacion  
Good lorde if it be thy wyll and pleasure  
Permyt her to abyde with vs and endure

O blessyd abbasse/thou art our succoure  
Our singuler comfort/both day and nyght  
Our helpe and refuge/agayne all langoure  
Our speciall defence/vnder god almyght  
Alas swete maistres/and lady bryght  
Why wyll you departe/from vs so hastely  
But agayne deth/may be no remedy.

Of the departure of this holy abbasse/and howe she  
appetyd p same houre to a noble prefect/curyng  
hym from sicknesse of his throte.

 His venerable virgyn /expired sothely  
The.iiii.day of August/to blis eternall  
Angels were present/with mycle melody  
To receyue the soule/from the lyfe temperall  
S. Radegunde. c.i.

For euer to reigne / in the see celestiaall  
To haue her merite / and glozificacion  
For her great vertue / and contemplacion

And at the same houre / of her departyng  
Quareours laboꝝyng / in the mounte therby  
Herd swete armony of angels singyng  
One sayd howe the voyce of a sad company  
Ascendeth to the eares of god almyghty  
Suffre her no lenger to endure distress  
Take her to ioy / and eterne quietnes

Whan the angels saweng / thus endyd was  
They receyued the soule / of this fayre lady  
And brought it syngyng / to the celestiaall palace  
(As afoze is sayd) to reigne eternally  
Unto whiche place / of endles gloꝝy  
Pray for vs abbasse / and holy moniaall  
That we may thyder come / both one and all

Manyfolde merites / and myꝛacles memoratpue  
Magnifyen this mayde / with great magnificence  
Enduryng the tyme / of this present lyfe  
And at her departure / known by experience  
For she appetyd gostly in presence  
The same houre she passyd / from this lyfe dolorous  
To a great gouernoure / called Demolemus

This sayd Demolemus / was paynfully cruciat  
In his brest and throte / by host and swellng  
His bꝛeth restrayned with passyons tortuat  
Ryght like to expire / at euery hours endyng



26  
Kadegunde bad hym/straytely commaundyng  
To lose. bit. prisoners/within his Jayle and holde  
And he shulde haue helth/and pleasure manyfolde

(Whiche visyon past) he waked sodenly  
Callyng to mynde/her wyll and commaundement  
Knewe well by the visyon/that this noble lady  
Chan was departed from this lyfe present  
Prouyng the trueth/by messangers diligent  
Afterwarde he sende his seruaunt to the prison  
Delivered all captiue from payne and affliction

Incontynently by merit and grace of this abbasse  
Demolemus mended/offickenes and infyrmitie  
His throte and his heed/whiche wofull was  
Were sone deliuered /from all penalyte  
His h2eth restored/at his owne lyberte  
This forsayd ruler/and the prisoners all  
Prayled this virgyn/with mynde speciall

Whiche sayd myzacles notyfied playne  
Thorothe the countrey/and all the region  
Many poore prisoners/suffering great payne  
Made darly prayers/and humble supplicacion  
Unto this lady promysing an oblacion  
Desiring her suffrage with humylite  
Were saued from deth/and put at lyberte.

How saynt Kadegund cured one of her seruauntes  
from the plague of her sittynge in her chaper  
without auctorite and right.

S. Kadegunde.

e. ii.

**S**Done after the departure of this pure blyght  
A woman of Aluoberga one of her sample  
Of hye ambicion willing to domyn  
Sat in her cha. yer/ right presumptuously  
Commendynge her selfe/ that place moost worthy  
So whan she had done/ this offence greuous  
The punysshement of god/ fell on her dolo.rous

Her bodye brenned/ as doth a hote furnace  
The kinde ascended/ to the ayre on hye  
The payne continued/ and neuer ceased was  
Thre dayes and. iiii. nyghtes/ indurynge feruently  
This wo. full woman seynge no remedy  
With hert penitent/ made playne confession  
Of her euill dede and hye presumption

She sayd swete Radegunde/ haue pitie on me  
O comly quene/ forgyue me myn offence  
Ceasse this feruent plage/ I pray to the  
Pardon my pryde/ and great negligence  
I haue offended/ your hye prehempnence  
And euill trespassed/ agaynst your hye honoure  
Saue me swete lady/ from payne and doloure

Also the people/ on her had compassyon  
Tenderly for her/ prayde knelyng on kne  
Unto our sayour/ with hye deuocion  
And to saynt Radegunde/ her helpe to be  
Anone this blyght/ on her haupng pite  
Ceased this feruent fyre of punysshement  
This woman was saued/ and cured from tozment.

**A** breue reherfall of the great profit and reined by  
founde by true oblacion made to this moniall. 27

**T**hese forsaide myzacles / and other many one  
Infinite to reherse all seriously  
This virgin shewed / by singuler deuotion  
Unto all people sicke and in miserie  
Desiring her prayers / and suffrages mekely  
All suche departed from her with gladnesse  
Whiche came to her presence / in wo and heuenesse

Among all myzacles after our intelligence  
Whiche Radegunde shewed by her humilite  
One is moost vsuall had in experience  
Among the common people / noted with hert fre  
By offer'ng of otes / after theyr degre  
At her holy aulters where myzacles in sight  
Dayly haue be done by grace day and nyght

By oblacion of othes / halt / lame / and blynde  
Hath ben restored / hnto prosperite  
Dowme men to sorke / aboue cours of kynde  
Sickemen deliuerd / from payne and miserie  
Maydens hath kent theyr pure birginite  
Myddowes defended from greuous oppression  
And clarkes exalted / by her to promotion

Many other myzacles / she shewed expresse  
To euery estate / religious and rurall  
By her great vertue / merite / and goodnesse  
Whiche be nat reherfed / here in speciall  
But who so lyst to knowe her myzacles all

**S. Radegunde**

e.iii.



May forther enquire / of they? benigne  
The booke of her myzacles where in they witten be

Whiche miracles / who redeth ceriously  
Marke / mynde / and bere them well away  
Shall fynde that our lord god / the kyng of glozy  
Sheweth his myghty power day by day  
For all suche: whiche in they? hartes fynde may  
Hym to loue / and serue aboue all thyng  
And hym to folowe / gladly in they? luyng

Lyke as dyd / this birgyn pudicall  
As in her lyfe I haue made mencion  
She forsoke the pleasures / great and small  
Of this worlde: and set all her affection  
Dorely to lye in straye religion  
In prayer / fastyng / and worthy penaunce  
With watche / labour / and simple sustinaunce

She viseted the sicke persons impotent  
And ministred / with good hert and mynde  
To them suche thynges / as were conuenient  
She succurred both lame / halt / and blynde  
And the soze lazers / where she dyd them fynde  
She washed / and touched they? sozes tenderly  
And neuer abhorred / any malady

Her almes she gaue / there as she sawe neede  
To monasteries / and persons religious  
Briefely to speke / many a vertuous dede  
She fulfilled: for whiche our lord Iesus  
For her shewed suche miracles glorious

What tyme she was here in this worlde lyuynge  
And also syth her hens away partynge.

28

**A** prayer or orison of the blessyd quene  
Radegunde moniall and abbasse.



Noble pryncesse/flouryng in vertue  
Borne of kyngs blodde/by cource of nature  
O blessyd Radegund the spouses of Iesu  
A myrrour of mekenesse/to every creature  
In thy yong age/refusyng wordly pleasure  
Nowe reigneest in heuen/and ioy lastyng ay  
We the beseke/sweete virgyn pure  
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

O comly quene/and lady excellent  
Somtyme vnder spousage/lyueng in chastyte  
Entendyng for to please our lord omnipotent  
And the worlde refuse with all vanite  
A wyfe and a mayde as fewe other be  
Wetyng the herd heare vnder garmentes gay  
At our departure of thy benigneite  
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

Thy chaste conuersacion vnder matrimonye  
Euer entended holy perfeccion  
Dayly fulfillyng the werkess of mercye  
And vpon the poore hauing compassion  
Releuing prisoners in wofull affliction  
Most mercifull pryncesse proued all way  
We the requite/with humble supplicacion  
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

And whan thou was in holy religion  
Thou shewed example of humilite  
To all thy sisters/ and congregacion  
Howe they shulde kepe theyr chastite  
Theyr true profession/ the essentials thre  
A lanterne of light/ shewing berray  
Wherfore we pray the of thy charite  
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

Euery creature in this present lyfe  
May take of the parfyt imitacion  
Both quene and princeesse/ lady and wyfe  
Remembryng thy straytenesse in religion  
Thy prayers/ penaunce/ vigils/ meditation  
The torment of thy body/ without delay  
In euery tyme namely in lenton  
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

Also for thy vertue and great holynesse  
Many myracles were shewed both day and nyght  
People were cured/ by the from sickenesse  
Halt and lame heled/ blynd had theyr sight  
Impotent persons/ restored to myght  
Wickyd sprites abiecte/ it is no nay  
Of thy great charite swete lady bright  
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

O beauteous gême and saphyre celestiall  
O worthy diamounde/ shewing with honour  
In the heuenly trone with ioy angelicall  
Praying and louyng our blessed sauyour  
Make thou intercession/ shewing thy deuout  
For vs thy seruauntes/ as thou well may



Flamely at this tyme/and at euery houre  
Preserue and defende vs/both nyght and day

O rubicunde rose beryant in pulcritude  
Our dayly comfort/pleasant to be holde  
O lilly whyte floure/shenyng with claritude  
O radiant ster/passyng perle and golde  
Our singuler defence/and succoure to be tolde  
To thy spouse Jesu/for vs thou daily pray  
That we may repent/our synne manyfolde  
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

For vs make instaunce/O gracious lady  
O quene and princeesse/moniall and abbasse  
That we may optayne here pardon and mercy  
And clere be absolued/from synne and trespasse  
And after this lyfe/to se the glozious face  
Of the blessed trinite/ in blis to our pay  
Where ioy is infinite/and eternall grace  
Helpe virgyn Radegunde/both nyght and day.

A breue conclusyon/ & end of this pooze translatyon  
mouyng the reders to accept this lytell  
vnworthy to be redde.

**O** Pre beloued brother/ in our lord Jesu  
My faythfull loue/and speciall frende  
Glad I am to know your goodnes & vntu  
To whome with humilite I me recomēd  
shewyng to you þ I haue brought to end  
And translate in to englishe/the noble story  
Of mayden Radegun. & as ye desyred me

Requyrng you tenderly of your gentlines  
To accept this present pooze translation  
Excusyng my ignoraunce/and symplenesse  
Takyng my mynde/and humble intention  
Whiche warke is done /of no presumption  
Also pardon my termes though they rude be  
Futiles of sentence full of prolixite

Nowe to all poetis flouryng moost eloquent  
And to all other/that this lyfe shall rede oꝛ se  
With humble submission/ I do it represent  
Desirynge them all /of theyꝝ charite  
To correct and refoꝛme it where is necessite  
Which sayd translation/and indigne werke  
Is foꝛ comunon people/written foꝛ no clerke

And where this virgyn/and gracious lady  
Hath be kept scilent and close a long season  
Knowen to fewe persons/within this countrey  
Therefore we purposed/ vnder her proteccion  
To declare her lyfe and gossly conuersacion  
Dilatynge her fame/and shewe her excellence  
Extollyng her name with great magnificence

Euery great estate/empresse/quene/and duchesse  
Exemple may take at this moniall  
To encrease in vertu/and proued mekenesse  
In churche to be deuout/and courtesse in hall  
And to the pooze people foꝛ to be liberall  
Euery true matrone her doctrine folowynge  
In heuen may be sure to haue a wonnyng

And who so that is a person religious  
May lerne at this lady to kepe patience  
To be humble in soule / gentyll and vertuous  
Obseryng chastite / and true obedience  
With wilfull pouerte / without concupiscence  
And euer content be with what Jesu doth sende  
peuyng humble thanks vnto your lyues end.

Go fourth ytell boke / blacke be thy besture  
As euer mournyng inable to come to lyght  
Submit the also vnto euery creature  
Whiche reason hath desirng to haue a sight  
O blessyd sauyour / and lorde moost of myght  
Preserue this poore boke from hate and enmyte  
With all humble reders of thy benignite.

..

Amen

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Thus endeth the lyfe of saynt Radegunde Im-  
printed by Rycharde Wynson printer  
to the kynges noble grace Cum  
priuilegio a rege  
indulto.

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